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16 November 1978

Honorable Elmer B. Staats Comptroller General of the United States General Accounting Office Washington, D.C. 20548

Dear Elmer:

I have spoken with Harold Brown about the recent discussions you and I have had on compartmented clearances. Harold and I agreed that your people should have access to compartmented information when this is needed in the course of GAO inquiries requested by Congress.

In view of the sensitivity of the kinds of material likely to be involved, it would be best if compartmented access approvals were granted on a limited duration case-by-case basis.

We would, of course, appreciate your keeping the number of different individuals involved to the absolute minimum.

My Office of Legislative Counsel will be contacting your staff to work out specific arrangements.

 ${ t Yours.}$

STANSFIELD TURNER

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